



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/852,077	05/09/2001	Michiaki Sakamoto	I2873A	4429

23389 7590 09/10/2003

SCULLY SCOTT MURPHY & PRESSER, PC
400 GARDEN CITY PLAZA
GARDEN CITY, NY 11530

[REDACTED] EXAMINER

NGUYEN, DUNG T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2871	

DATE MAILED: 09/10/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/852,077	Applicant(s) Sakamoto	
	Examiner Dung Nguyen	Art Unit 2871	
<i>-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --</i>			
Period for Reply			
<p>A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.</p> <p>- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (e). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.</p> <p>- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.</p> <p>- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.</p> <p>- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).</p> <p>- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).</p>			
Status			
<p>1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>Jun 16, 2003</u></p> <p>2a) <input type="checkbox"/> This action is FINAL. 2b) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This action is non-final.</p> <p>3) <input type="checkbox"/> Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under <i>Ex parte Quayle</i>, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.</p>			
Disposition of Claims			
<p>4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>26 and 28-44</u> is/are pending in the application.</p> <p>4a) Of the above, claim(s) <u>28-41</u> is/are withdrawn from consideration.</p> <p>5) <input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.</p> <p>6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>26, 42, and 43</u> is/are rejected.</p> <p>7) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>44</u> is/are objected to.</p> <p>8) <input type="checkbox"/> Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.</p>			
Application Papers			
<p>9) <input type="checkbox"/> The specification is objected to by the Examiner.</p> <p>10) <input type="checkbox"/> The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) <input type="checkbox"/> accepted or b) <input type="checkbox"/> objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).</p> <p>11) <input type="checkbox"/> The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) <input type="checkbox"/> approved b) <input type="checkbox"/> disapproved by the Examiner. If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.</p> <p>12) <input type="checkbox"/> The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.</p>			
Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120			
<p>13) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).</p> <p>a) <input type="checkbox"/> All b) <input type="checkbox"/> Some* c) <input type="checkbox"/> None of: 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____. 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).</p> <p>*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.</p>			
<p>14) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).</p> <p>a) <input type="checkbox"/> The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.</p>			
<p>15) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.</p>			
Attachment(s)			
<p>1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)</p>		<p>4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____</p>	
<p>2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)</p>		<p>5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)</p>	
<p>3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____</p>		<p>6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p>	

Art Unit: 2871

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 06/16/2003 has been entered.

Applicant's amendment dated 05/21/2003 has been received and entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

3. Claims 26 and 42-43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimada et al., US Patent No. 5,852,485, in view of Shim et al., US Patent No. 6,181,402 and Xu et al., US Patent No. 6,023,317, as stated in the final office action.

Regarding the above claims , Shimada et al. disclose an in-plane switching liquid crystal display (LCD) device having:

- a pair of substrate (21, 212);
- a protection layer (e.g., gate insulating film 23) formed over substrate (21)

Art Unit: 2871

- a thin film transistor (TFT);
- a color filter (218) formed over the protection layer (23);
- a liquid crystal layer (217) formed between the color filter (218) and substrate (212);
- a common electrode (213) and a pixel electrode disposed between the color filter and the liquid crystal layer;
- an alignment layer (216).

Shimada et al. neither disclose the vertical orientation films, an insulating layer forming between the pixel electrode and the common electrode nor compensation film forming between a substrate and a polarizing film.

Shim et al. disclose a homeotropic LCD device by forming vertical alignment layers as shown in figure 3A. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the Shimada et al. device having a vertical alignment layer as shown by Shim et al. in order to obtain an LCD device having a wide viewing angle (col. 2, line 11). In addition, one skilled in the art would have realized the desire to form an interlayer between two electrodes (e.g., pixel and common electrodes in different layers) for insulating such two electrodes. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to form a common electrode under an insulating layer and a pixel electrode over the insulating layer in order to avoid cross-talk between two different electrodes.

Xu et al. do disclose in figures 1-3 that an optical compensation film (e.g., positive or negative) can be disposed between a substrate and a polarizing film. Therefore, it would have

Art Unit: 2871

been obvious to one skilled in the art to employ the optical compensation film in the Shimada et al. device in order to improve viewing characteristics (Xu et al., abstract).

It should be noted that the method of manufacturing the device is merely a list of forming each component and each component must be formed to make the device; therefore, the method of manufacturing would be inherent to the device. In addition, the limitation of "by light irradiation" in claim 26 does not have patentable weight, since Applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention (e.g., rubbing method), this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. In other words, such limitation withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claim 44 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 05/21/2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive as stated above.

Art Unit: 2871

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Dung Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-0423. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, The Examiner's supervisor, Robert H. Kim can be reached on 703-305-3492. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-7730 for regular communications and 703-308-7726 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

DN
09/03/2003



Dung Nguyen

Patent Examiner
GAU 2871